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## The BG News January 7, 2008

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## SOUTHERN CHOW

In addition to the game, players and coaches dove into masses of Southern food — particularly pork and banana pudding. See page 8.

## The band marches on

The Falcon Marching Band was an integral part of the bowl game and Mardi Gras celebrations in Mobile, Ala., last week. See page 5.



# THE BG NEWS

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ONLINE: FIND PHOTOS AND BLOGS FROM LAST NIGHT'S GAME ON WWW.BGNEWS.COM

# Crushed

## Falcons falter under GMAC pressure



COLIN WILSON  
REPORTER



ANN HEISENFELT | AP PHOTO

UNBELIEVABLE: BG quarterback Tyler Sheehan (13) reacts after his teammates fail to complete a pass during the fourth quarter of the GMAC Bowl game against Tulsa in Mobile, Ala., yesterday. Tulsa beat BG 63-7.

## BG suffers resounding loss to Golden Hurricane

By Chris Voloschuk  
Sports Editor

MOBILE, Ala. — There was no eye in the Golden Hurricane that stormed past BG yesterday night.

Tulsa's offense offered no chance for the Falcons to breathe, and the result was a 63-7 GMAC Bowl loss in front of 36,932 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

In the blink of a human eye, Tulsa took a 7-0 lead on a Tarrion Adams run up the middle from the Falcons' one-yard line. After that, the levees broke and the rout was on as the Golden Hurricane scored a flurry of points, gained a pile of yards and

assaulted the college football record books both individually and as a team.

The team's wounds festered even more as starting quarterback Tyler Sheehan was carted off the field with an ankle injury during the second quarter. Though an X-ray revealed it wasn't broken, Sheehan spent the rest of the game on the sidelines hunched over crutches.

According to BG head Coach Gregg Brandon, the team dug itself into a hole early.

"You're playing against an offense like [Tulsa],

**"We were out of it before we were in it."**

Gregg Brandon  
BG head coach

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MOBILE, Ala. — The good feeling that had been brought on by the BG football team was gone just as quickly as it got here.

"We were out of it before we were in it," BG coach Gregg Brandon said.

More than a month has passed since it was announced that BG would play in the GMAC Bowl. All the happiness that followed was forgotten in a matter of 20 minutes.

Out-coached and out-played, BG had its worst game of the season and worst bowl loss in the school's history.

"I don't know what happened, turnovers," Brandon said of his team's four first half fumbles.

A lot of the early damage BG suffered was self-inflicted. The Falcons got into a hole that was impossible to climb out of. With two chances to strike first, BG punted then fumbled. Tulsa scored on three of its first five possessions. All three were off BG turnovers and started on BG's side of the 50-yard line.

When it was on the field, BG's potent offense looked lost. Rather than do what had worked the past four weeks, the Falcons opted to run the ball and take what they could underneath. That didn't work well. BG had just one first down in the first quarter.

"It seemed like they were a step ahead most of the game for whatever reason," said BG center Kory Lichtensteiger. "Lack of bringing our A-game I guess."

Two second quarter drives ended in failed fourth down conversions of two yards or less. On fourth and inches, they opted to give the ball to the 170-pound Willie Geter. He was knocked backwards.

When the Falcons had fourth and two at the Tulsa 3-yard line, they tried to pass. As Sheehan was flushed out to his left, he couldn't find anyone open and threw an incompleteness. Brandon felt like his team was prepared better than it showed.

"You sure wouldn't think that, but I thought we were coming in," he said.

Nothing BG did surprised Tulsa's defense. Maybe that's why the supposed 112th-ranked defense in the nation had the Falcons' number, shutting them

See **COLIN** | Page 6

## Falcon fans find things to be grateful for amid bowl loss

Last college-career games and player family reunions top the list for supporters looking to see the defeat through rose-colored glasses

By Freddy Hunt  
Assistant City Editor

Filling seats, something BG struggled to do all year, was no problem at all as Falcon fans flocked from all over the country — at least for the first half of the game.

In 2001, after a home game victory against Toledo, BG fans tore down the goal posts. The Toledo Blade ran a front page photo of crazed students rocking the post

violently back and forth. The student hanging on top of the field goal post was '03 graduate Brad Ontrop, who was also at last night's game.

"This goal post right here is in jeopardy," Ontrop said before the game, as he pointed toward the stadium. But the goal post needed not worry.

For junior Bethany Winovich, last night's game was the last opportunity she had to see her big

brother Pete Winovich on the field in a Falcons jersey. Win or lose, she was there for her brother.

"It sucks, but it's his last game," Winovich said. "What's it matter if they win or lose? We still made it to a bowl game and it's not like we're going any further."

But the look on her face seemed to show that winning did matter, at least a little bit.

Like Winovich, 2005 graduate alumnus Noel Blaha wouldn't let

a disappointing ball game ruin his entire experience. He drove nine hours from Charleston, S.C., and was determined not to adopt a negative attitude.

"I'd rather come here and wear orange and brown than watch some other team play on TV," Blaha said. The sullen expression on his face disappeared as he complimented the tailgate he attended earlier. The barbecue alone was worth the trip, he said.

Just as he completed his sentence a disgruntled fan shuffled by, muttering "how embarrassing" and "what a big waste of money." To her, the glass was clearly half empty and the game hopeless at halftime. She followed several hundred other fans out to the parking lot.

The trick to remaining positive last night was to find other things to be grateful about. For Gail Davis, it was family and the

weather.

Traveling to Tulsa meant more than a chance to see her nephew Erique Dozier add a few tackles to his stats. Family members came from Louisiana, Colorado and Akron, Ohio, for a Davis/Dozier family reunion, and it wasn't their first.

"We were here three years ago and it rained like crazy," Davis said. "It's much better this time, much better."

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Local flavor consists of pork, grits, pudding and various combinations of seafood, sausage and Cajun seasoning.

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Originating in Mobile, the city held its Mardi Gras parade over the weekend.

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Cy Young winner Jake Peavy spoke to the two teams at a breakfast about the importance of faith in sports.

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BG takes the trophy against Tulsa at a friendly bowling competition before the big game.

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**HIGH HOPES:** Sophomore Donovan Etchison high-fives freshman Mario Amicarelli after the first down in the first quarter. Sophomore Matt Zimmerman and freshman Bryan Hannan joined the two in watching the GMAC Bowl at the Honors Loft in Harshman. More than twenty other students gathered in the Loft to watch the awaited Bowl game on ESPN.

## At home, fans try optimism

Students gather to watch — or not watch — the game

By Ryan Sullivan  
Reporter

Students and residents of the city of Bowling Green were ready to cheer the Falcons to victory before the start of the GMAC Bowl yesterday despite being more than 900 miles away.

Before the game began, students both on and off campus were optimistic the Falcons would pull out a victory.

In the Honors Loft at Harshman, students gathered around a big screen television to watch the game.

"I think it will be a shoot-out," sophomore Donovan Etchison said. "As long as we win, I will be happy."

Freshman Nicole Spadafore said she was just hoping for a close game.

As the game progressed, fans started to begin to wonder just when the comeback would begin.

At Buffalo Wild Wings on Wooster Street, junior Ben Cooper was beginning to wonder the same thing after the Falcon's

third fumble of the first quarter.

"I think we will make this a decent game," he said. "I think we can come back by using our spread offense and a few quick scores."

Cooper said he thought this game would bring national exposure to the University.

"It should help with recruiting and enrollment," he said.

Fans at Ziggy Zoombas were much less optimistic as the game started to progress into the second quarter.

One table in particular started to give up hope when they asked for the bartender to turn on the Clemson vs. University of North Carolina basketball game instead.

Recent graduate Anthony Stretar said he came to watch the football game, but his buddy gave up and changed the channel to the basketball game.

"I was expecting a tough and close game," he said as the half started to draw to a close. "I was really surprised at how we came out but I still think we can catch up."

The Falcons have a lot of tough kids and they are not going to want to go out like this, according to Stretar, who said his roommates include senior players Pete Winovich and Kyle Cutler.

People started leaving the Black Swamp Pub as the game started to get away from the Falcons, junior Phil Savitt said.

Savitt said he takes pride in being a Falcon after having attended nine games this year, including traveling to Boston College to cheer for Bowling Green.

As the second half was getting ready to begin, the students who remained at the pub were still showing their Falcon Pride.

"I absolutely believe [we can come back]," senior Terry Streetman said before the kick-off.

Streetman said he has gone to several football games this year, including the game in Minnesota, and was at the University the last time the Falcons played in a bowl game.

He said people seemed to be more excited for the team the last time, adding how hard it is to

stay positive when the game is so far away.

It was hard for most Falcon fans to stay positive about the game as it drew to a close, but hope remains high for next season.

Sophomore Michael Epley said even though the Falcons came up short, they had a great season overall.

"Coming after last year, this will propel us ahead really well," he said.

Junior Jeremy Jeffery said this will really help the University's recruiting for the season and said he was just glad BGSU made a bowl game this year.

"[The score] was astounding," he said. "But the season overall was really good."

As a result of the loss, Bowling Green mayor John Quinn is going to have to donate 12 trees to Tulsa because of a bet with the city's mayor.

The Toledo Blade reports the trees are going to be planted in one of Tulsa's parks to replace some that were recently damaged by an ice storm.

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## PEOPLE ON THE STREET ... in Mobile, Alabama



"We drove all the way from Dayton, and it's warm and better than Ohio."  
**DRE AND MANONE ELLIS**, #17 Anthony Turner's cousin



"I had to watch the 2004 game on TV and it killed me. There's no way I was missing it again."  
**MICHAEL WHERLEY**, 'Falcon Freak' on Ay Ziggy Zoomba Web forum



"We decided at 1:30 Friday night we were coming. We were like, 'Aw, #%% it, let's go!'"  
**PAM FAHL**, Sean O'Drobinak's "BG Family Mom"



"Spell Tulsa backwards."  
**JOEY SHEIDLER**, Brother of Jimmy and Josh Sheidler (#89, #22)

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## GMAC Bowl Stats

	BGSU	TULSA
First Downs	13	34
Rushes-Yards	34-49	39-238
Passing Yards	183	324
Comp.-Att.	20-27	29-47
Interceptions	0	0
Total offensive yards	229	562
Fumbles-lost	4-4	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-37	3-25
Punts-Yards	5-193	5-210
Time of Possession	31:05	28:55
Third Down	4/14	6/12
Fourth Down	0/4	6/12
Red Zone Scores	0/2	9/9
Sacks	1	5
Field Goals	0/0	0/0

## First Quarter

7:55 — Tarrion Adams 1-yard run (Jarod Tracy kick) 7-0 Tulsa  
5:36 — Trae Johnson 13-yard pass from Paul Smith (Tracy kick) 14-0 Tulsa  
1:57 — A.J. Whitmore 19-yard run (Tracy kick) 21-0 Tulsa  
Second Quarter  
13:55 — Kyle Grooms 4-yard pass from Adams (Tracy kick) 28-0 Tulsa  
7:56 — Adams 19-yard pass from Smith (Tracy kick) 35-0 Tulsa

## Third Quarter

12:49 — Johnson 14-yard pass from Smith (Tracy kick) 42-0 Tulsa  
12:33 — Roger Williams 78-yard kickoff return (Vrivilo kick) 42-7 Tulsa  
4:41 — Smith 2-yard run (Tracy kick) 49-7 Tulsa  
Fourth Quarter  
14:18 — Charles Clay 3-yard pass from Smith (Tracy kick) 56-7  
3:22 — Whitmore 6-yard pass from Smith (Tracy kick) 63-7

## Falcon stats take a beating

By Bill Bordewick  
Assistant Sports Editor

It was just an ugly night all around for the entire Falcons team last night — the ugliest of those offenders was probably the offense.

The offense fumbled the ball four times in the first half alone.

"Turnovers — it was just one of those nights," BG coach Gregg Brandon said. "You can't turn the ball over four times in the first half against a great team like Tulsa and expect to have a chance to win. We were out of it before we were in it. It was a tough night for the Falcons."

They just could not stop the bleeding from shooting themselves in the foot over and over again.

There was a Freddie Barnes fumble after gaining a first down on a slant. Sheehan and Geter followed that up by running into each other and proceed-

**"You can't turn the ball over four times... and expect to have a chance to win."**

Gregg Brandon | BG coach

ing to lose the ball. Antonio Smith then muffed a punt and then Anthony Turner fumbled the ball when he was two yards away from scoring.

Four deflating fumbles, and just like that, the Falcons were down 28-0 before they seemingly had gotten off the bus.

It is not like Tulsa turned into this great defensive unit over night, either. All the damage done to the Falcons on this night was self-inflicted.

Even when BG got deep into Tulsa territory without fumbling, they were stopped on downs at the three yard line.

"I'm really proud of our defense," said Tulsa coach Todd Graham. "We did some great things tonight — to go out there and shut out a team that puts up 32 points per game is absolutely incredible."

It was just that kind of day for the Falcons. To make matters worse, starting quarterback Tyler Sheehan was carted off the field with an apparent ankle injury. X-rays were taken and they came back negative.

With Sheehan out of the lineup, the Falcons managed to only go backward in the third quarter amassing minus three yards of offense. The Golden Hurricane meanwhile put 227 yards of offense on the board.

"Their defense was quicker and more active than we thought," Brandon said. "They did a good job of stunting and moving linebackers through."

The only points the Falcons put on the board were because

of a 78-yard kickoff return by Roger Williams and that only made the score 42-7 at the time. Williams was the leading yards gainer for the offense pulling in 135 return yards.

The Falcons were only able to muster 229 yards of offense on the day — compare that to Tulsa who rushed for 238 alone and passed for another 324 to total 562 on the day.

Tyler Sheehan missed the entire second half but still was the Falcons' leading rusher with 21 yards. The Falcons as team rushed the ball 34 times for 46 yards — a total that was matched by Tulsa quarterback Paul Smith by himself.

For an offense to who have achieved so much throughout the season and then to see everything fall apart in the final game of the season, it definitely subdued some of that excitement that had been with this Falcons team for so long.

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# Officer 'Rail Road' shows Falcons Southern hospitality

The team's transportation escort from the Mobile Police Department will be missed when BG returns home

By Freddy Hunt  
Assistant City Editor

MOBILE, Ala. — The second the Falcons arrived in Mobile, Ala., they picked up a new member of the team to help them win the big game — but his uniform wasn't orange and brown.

It was blue. Officer Robert R. Smith Jr. of the Mobile Police Department, better known as "Rail Road," served as BG's escort after the team's plane arrived in Alabama.

The 58-year-old officer got



**'Rail Road'**  
Officer Robert R. Smith Jr. of the Mobile Police Department

his nickname three years ago when he gave so many tickets at once that his sergeant asked if he was "rail roading" everyone. The name stuck.

As part of the department's traffic safety unit since the competition's inception in 1999, Rail Road was responsible for the team's travels.

But he did much more for the

team than simply ensure its safe transportation.

During the course of boogying down with Frieda Falcon at the bowling alley and conversing with the players during joy rides in his cruiser, Rail Road took a strong liking to the team.

"I tell you what, I've never seen such a great bunch of guys in my life," Rail Road said. "I'm going to hate to see them go."

He wasn't the only one to dread the day of departure.

Falcons quarterback Tyler Sheehan said Rail Road was a great escort, a great represen-

tative of the South and a source of plenty of entertainment.

"It's all southern hospitality," Sheehan said. "The people around here have been great to us. [He's] a little crazy, and I think we kind of converted him into a Bowling Green fan, so it's nice having him around."

Breaking down the huddle at the end of practice with a loud "That's the bottom line!" reinforced by the rest of the team cheering him on, Rail Road certainly has become a fan and said he wishes he were more than that.

"I wish I was young enough

to get out there with them. All of them, they got magnetism, brotherly love, every one of them," said Rail Road in his rich Alabama accent.

"It's like one solid team, and that's good. I love 'em, they're great. There's no bad words to be said around this team. Or they better watch out around me, anyways."

His age may make him too old, but BG head Coach Gregg Brandon said he thinks years aren't a true reflection of his age.

"He's a little crazy, but a great guy," Brandon said. "He's a kid

at heart and does a great job — hauls the kids around in his cruiser, does a great job giving us escorts. It's hilarious to watch him stop the traffic and watch people freak out on the highway."

Even during the game, Rail Road stood by his team.

From under his Falcons hat, he cheered as loudly as any student, alumni or player's mother or girlfriend in the stadium.

And unless someone knew him, they would think Rail Road had come down with BG like another longtime fan.

## BG's 47-year bowl game history has its highs and lows

By Chris Voloschuk  
Assistant Sports Editor

It's been said that part of knowing where you're going is knowing where you've been. When it comes to bowl appearances, the BG football program is no exception.

BG entered Mobile's Ladd-Peebles Stadium with a 4-3 bowl record that spans 47 years. Their history in bowl games is a mix of tough losses and thrilling wins.

### 1961 Mercy Bowl

BG's first-ever bowl appearance in 1961 was born out of tragic circumstances.

The Mercy Bowl was a new, one-time-only creation that served as a way to help cover the burial and medical expenses for the families of the 16 members of the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo football team. Team members died in a plane crash shortly after takeoff from the Toledo Express Airport in October 1960.

The game between BG and Fresno State University took place at the Los Angeles Coliseum in front of 33,146 spectators.

Although they were six-point

favorites heading into the game, BG was unable to muster much offense, turning the ball over six times en route to a 36-6 loss to the Bulldogs. The Falcons' defense, ranked fourth in the nation at the time, allowed 468 total yards.

The game earned \$170,000 for the memorial fund that was set up to aid the survivors and relatives of those killed in the plane crash.

### 1982 California Bowl

BG's second bowl appearance came against Fresno State at Bulldog Stadium on Dec. 18, 1982. The stadium packed 30,000 fans in what was a virtual home game for Fresno.

This time the Falcons were two-touchdown underdogs, but didn't play like it for most of the game. They went into half time up 14-0 and by the end of the third quarter had a 28-7 lead and looked to be in the driver's seat.

In the fourth quarter, receiver and future NFL player Stephone Paige caught a TD pass and the Bulldogs closed to within six points of the Falcons with three minutes to go. Just over a minute later, quarterback Jeff Tedford hit

receiver Vince Wesson over the middle to tie the score at 28. The PAT was the deciding point and it propelled FSU to a comeback 29-28 win.

In the fourth quarter, FSU gained 220 yards compared to BG's 26.

### 1985 California Bowl

Once again, BG met Fresno in front of 32,554 at Bulldog Stadium.

For BG, the game had a dark cloud hovering over it from just days before kickoff. That Wednesday, head coach Denny Stolz informed the team that he would be leaving and taking the head coaching job at San Diego State University just after the bowl game.

The game went poorly for the Falcons from the beginning. BG Hall of Fame quarterback Brian McClure threw three interceptions and the offense lost five fumbles in a 51-7 loss to the Bulldogs.

### 1991 California Raisin Bowl

On Dec. 14, 1991, Bulldog Stadium was once again the site for the fourth clash between BG

and Fresno. There were 34,877 spectators who turned up to watch.

Under first-year head coach Gary Blackney, the Falcons had won 10 games, and they were looking to make Blackney the third head coach in NCAA history to win 11 games in his first season.

Listed as double-digit underdogs to FSU, BG took the lead early in the game and never lost it. With three seconds left in the game, a 28-21 lead and FSU just nine yards away from the end zone, BG was able to get the stop and win the game.

### 1992 Las Vegas Bowl

BG's fifth bowl appearance would be their first against a team other than Fresno, and also served as the inaugural Las Vegas Bowl. On Dec. 18, 1992, BG met Nevada at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl in front of 15,476 people.

BG scored on their first four possessions and went into halftime with a 28-3 lead. They racked up 267 yards of offense compared to Nevada's 116.

In the second half, quarterback Chris Vargas led the Wolfpack to

31 points, 21 coming in the third quarter. A late score stemming from a botched Nevada punt lifted BG to a 35-34 win, their second consecutive bowl victory.

### 2003 Motor City Bowl

The bowl served as BG's first in 11 years. They met Northwestern University in front of 51,286 at Detroit's Ford Field. The game would serve as the first-ever postseason meeting between the Mid-American and Big Ten conferences.

During the game, Northwestern was able to take away BG's rushing attack. When the fourth quarter began, the Wildcats held a 17-14 lead.

That lead wouldn't stick, as a record-setting 38-of-50, 386 yard, three-touchdown performance from quarterback Josh Harris lifted BG to a come-from-behind 28-24 victory over Northwestern. Wideout Cole Wagner caught two of Harris' three TD passes.

### 2004 GMAC Bowl

In BG's most recent bowl appearance, the Falcons met Memphis in front of an estimated 24,000 fans at Mobile's Ladd-

Peebles Stadium Dec. 22, 2004.

The Falcons went into the game with a 9-3 record and were led by sophomore quarterback Omar Jacobs, who passed for 40 touchdowns and almost 4,000 yards in the regular season. The GMAC Bowl would serve as one of his best performances, and would earn him the game's Most Valuable Player award.

The contest was a shoot out from the beginning. BG went into halftime clinging to a 35-28 lead. In the second half, BG outscored Memphis 17-7 to win their fourth consecutive bowl game, 52-35.

Jacobs was stellar, completing 26 passes for 365 yards and five touchdowns. Running back P.J. Pope rushed for 151 yards and two scores.

By the end of the game, Jacobs set the MAC record for touchdowns in a season with 45. He also joined Miami's Ben Roethlisberger and Marshall's Byron Leftwich as the conference's only 4,000-yard passers. As a team, BG set the conference record for scoring average in a season.

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ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

# The march of the Falcons

Band members' hard work pays off at GMAC halftime as thousands of fans watch them perform

By Freddy Hunt  
Assistant City Editor

MOBILE, Ala. — Anyone who has seen "March of the Penguins" knows the sacrifices the birds make. The work put in by the Falcon Marching Band is similar, yet widely unknown. Their frozen tundra, the stadium. Their baby chick, the football team.

In mid-December, while most students were out partying after a grueling exam week, the marching band was busy rehearsing, sometimes for up to four hours a night.

Jeff Dunford, a first-year grad-

uate assistant for the band, said it's hard to practice too much because each member of the band must learn up to 115 different sets. Moving from set to set is what puts the march in the band and learning every step requires commitment.

"They have to be dedicated or they wouldn't be here," Dunford said about the bandies. "And we have had people that joined the band but weren't dedicated enough to complete everything, and they didn't make the cut. So they aren't here."

Band Director Carol Hayward said members must also be very

enthusiastic for music, marching and supporting athletics, which can be difficult when many people take halftime shows for granted.

"I don't think people in general realize how hard they work. I think sometimes people kind of just think it just kind of happens," Hayward said. "But it doesn't, it takes many hours of planning on part of the staff, many hours of outside practicing for the students."

In the end, sophomore Diatra Joseph said all the hard work pays off through friendships formed on the marching floor, even when some people pass judgment on BG's biggest supporters.

"A lot of people realize I'm in

the marching band and they think like they did in high school, like, 'Oh, you're a band nerd.' But honestly, it's a lot of fun to be a part of this band. I think the band gets some recognition, I know the [football] team really appreciates us."

Without the band the football team would still exist, but the stadium would be much quieter. However, some organizations, like the dance team, owe it all to the band.

"Without them we would be nothing," dance team member Alyssa Nolan said. "If there was no band, there would be no dance team."

Nolan said she loves the halftime shows, especially earlier this year when University President

Sidney Ribeau and his wife Paula did the "Superman" dance.

Members of the dance team aren't the only ones who love the band, Hayward said. She has noticed a few things since becoming band director.

"When I first came here nobody stayed in the stands during halftime," Hayward said. "Now almost everyone stays; nobody goes to get the proverbial hot dog until after the band plays."

And at last night's GMAC Bowl even more eyes were watching, which freshman Brooke Mott said is a great payoff for all the band's hard work.

"It's going to be crazy," Mott said. "The whole entire U.S. will be watching. It's a bowl game."

**WARMING UP:** Band members in uniform prepare for their big performance. Hours of practice go into each halftime show.



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**ENTHUSIASM:** Falcon Marching Band members have fun with Mardi Gras beads last week during the GMAC celebrations.

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## GAME

From Page 1

it's not going to work. It's a tough time for the Falcons."

By the end of the first quarter, a mix of BG turnovers and poor field position resulted in a 21-0 lead for the Golden Hurricane. Wideout Trae Johnson hauled in a 13-yard pass from quarterback Paul Smith and fellow receiver A.J. Whitmore scored on a 19-yard run up the Tulsa sideline.

The second quarter was a mere repeat of the first. Smith connected on two more TD passes to make the score 35-0, ensuring his offense was at least flirting with their season-long points per game average of 39.5 before halftime.

"We knew what [Tulsa] was going in," said defensive tackle Sean O'Drobinak. "They didn't try anything new ... But after looking at film for 30-some odd days, you kind of anticipate what is going to happen. They ran every play we thought they would."

The torrential downpour of Tulsa points continued in the second half as Johnson pulled in a 14-yard TD pass from Smith.

With 4:41 left in the third quarter, Smith capped an 80-yard drive with a two-yard touchdown run. The score ballooned to 49-7 in favor of the Golden Hurricane.

The final stanza offered no relief, as TU scored two more touchdowns and set some records in the process.

Smith became just the seventh quarterback in the his-



**GET READY:** Falcon players line up during warm-ups before the game last night. The team suffered a huge loss to Tulsa.

tory of college football to pass for more than 5,000 yards.

Fullback Charles Clay gained 69 yards and became the fifth player on the offense to gain more than 1,000 yards for the season.

As a team, Tulsa became the first to feature a 5,000-yard passer, a 1,000-yard rusher and three 1,000-yard receivers.

"We knew what plays were coming, and we knew what they were doing, we had a hard time all night just stop-

ping them," O'Drobinak said. "[Tulsa] didn't do much differently. We got five games on them, we broke down every game they had. We knew their tendencies ... We just couldn't stop them."

For the Falcons, linebacker Erique Dozier led the team with 11 tackles. Safety P.J. Mahone recorded 10.

BG had one sack, two tackles for a loss and two pass breakups in what was a very difficult evening.

## COLIN

From Page 1

out on offense.

Tulsa knew what its offense could do, so they concentrated on getting ready for BG's attack.

"They had a good plan," Brandon said. "I thought their defense out-hit us and out-executed us."

It was a bitter ending to a season that showed a lot of progress. Brandon won't allow that to be lost in the blowout.

"It was still a great season though," he said.

Great might not be the word, but "better" is a fair assessment.

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CHECK IT OUT

## Trademarks of Mobile, Ala.

The state's only seaport boasts baseball legends, Jimmy Buffett and some extremely polite citizens



ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR RICHTER | THE BG NEWS

1. Mobile is Alabama's only seaport.
2. Rick Crawford — Nascar Craftsman truck series driver
3. Orlando Jones — Actor
4. Ozzie Smith — MLB Hall of Famer
5. In a recent survey, it was named one of the top five most polite cities in America.
6. Mobile's first Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, was celebrated at the city's first settlement, Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff. Residents feasted and danced.
7. Hank Aaron — MLB Hall of Famer, had Hank Aaron Park, home of the Mobile Bay Bears named after him.
8. The city has more than 20 golf courses and has been named one of Golf Digest's top 10 places to golf.
9. Jimmy Buffett — Singer/Songwriter

Mobile, Ala.  
Home of Ladd-Peebles Stadium,  
GMAC Bowl

### MORE FACTS AND FAMOUS FOLKS FROM MOBILE, ALA.

- Mobile was founded as the first capital of colonial French Louisiana in 1702.
- The city of Mobile is 156.9 square miles and according to the 2000 census, had a population of 198,915.
- **PAUL BEARER** — WWE manager
- **SANFORD BISHOP** — US Congressman
- **RICH BOY** — Rapper
- **MR. BIGG** — Rapper
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- **URBIE GREEN** — Jazz trombonist
- **ROSALYN HEIGHTS** — Singer
- **BOB "HARDCORE" HOLLY** — WWE wrestler
- **LONNIE JOHNSON** — Inventor of the super soaker
- **WILLIE MCOVEY** — MLB Hall of Famer
- **BRYANT H. MCGILL** — Poet
- **SATCHEL PAIGE** — MLB Hall of Famer
- **JAKE PEAVY** — MLB player
- **JUAN PIERRE** — MLB player
- **EUGENE WALTER** — Actor/writer
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- **BILLY WILLIAMS** — MLB Hall of Famer

Sources: cityofmobile.org, museumofmobile.com



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# Team passes joy to sick children

## BG athletes 'bring normalcy' to chronically ill kids during hospital visit

By **Freddy Hunt**  
Assistant City Editor

MOBILE, Ala. — Last week, players from both teams proved their hearts are as big as their biceps.

Early Friday morning, players, cheerleaders and mascots made rounds at the University of Southern Alabama Children's and Women's Hospital.

Brenda White, a certified child life specialist who works directly with the children, said the annual GMAC Bowl hospital visit provides the children with a great opportunity.

"It brings normalcy to their lives. Some of the kids may not have ever even been to a football game before," White said. "Because, the kids we have, a lot of them have chronic illnesses where they may not get out in the community much. So it serves as a good avenue for them to be able to come in and meet football players and see first hand what goes on as far as the ball game is concerned."

The children weren't the only ones who were privileged that day. BG coed cheerleading



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**SMILES:** Falcon players, cheerleaders and mascots made rounds at the University of Southern Alabama Children's and Women's Hospital Friday to bring cheer to kids.

captain Andrew Gibson said it was great seeing the children light up.

"It really brightened my day," Gibson said. "Knowing the impact we made in a matter of five minutes, that we brightened those kids' day for who knows how long is just a great feeling."

Tulsa safety Steve Carver said the children may think of the players as football heroes, but it is the children who are the true warriors in life.

"It means a lot to us because

[football] is something we are very privileged to play. They are fighting the real fight in life, and we are just happy to be a part of it," Carver said.

Being a part of the children's recovery is what BG quarterback Tony Hunter said made the visit so rewarding.

"It's been really nice getting to see these kids. You know with all what they're going through, it's just nice to give back and do our part," Hunter said. "Some of the kids I've met have been blessed

and made it OK and are leaving in the next couple days. So that's really nice to see."

In addition to the players, Frieda Falcon also made rounds at the hospital. She may have frightened some of the children, but the majority of them were exhilarated to meet a giant bird with a ponytail.

Also meandering through the hallways, in their colossal pastel dresses, were the Azalea Trail Maids. The maids are a select group of high school girls who serve as ambassadors to the state of Alabama, spreading Southern charm everywhere they go.

Instead of going to the hospital, some of the Tulsa players, including star quarterback Paul Smith, visited the Strickland Youth Detention Center to try to inspire youngsters who are going through difficult times in life.

Smith said they were really received well by the children and many of them were athletes themselves.

"They were all saying how they were basketball players and football players and that they would be where we are someday," Smith said.

## Theismann's life lessons

By **Chris Voloschuk**  
Sports Editor



**Joe Theismann**  
Former Redskins player and Hall of Fame icon

MOBILE, Ala. — On Friday night, more than 1,000 people attended the GMAC Bowl Mayor's Banquet at the Mobile Convention Center. Guests included the coaches and players for both bowl participants, the mayor of Mobile and other officials, including University president Sidney Ribeau.

At the beginning of the night, some awards were passed out to those who were GMAC's "Champions of Life" — people who have achieved success in their line of work through hard work despite obstacles along the way.

Several people, including Michael R. Wilcox, CEO of Toledo's Wilcox Financial, were honored. Wilcox, a BGSU graduate, also is a member of the BG Athletic Hall of Fame and a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

After the "Champion of Life" awards and several scholarships were handed out, the big speech of the evening by football great Joe Theismann started. The speech was a combination of humor, unique perspective, candor and fire.

Theismann talked about

his life, including the changed pronunciation of his last name (Thiesmann to Theismann), his ability to remain humble despite all of his football success and the Monday Night Football injury that ended his career. The message of his speech? It's important to work hard and live every day like it's your last.

Theismann said it was a great opportunity to share his experiences and possibly help inspire the players in attendance to get the most out of their playing days.

"I really enjoy talking to a college group because I think you can make a difference in people's lives," Theismann said. "There's some guys who maybe aren't working quite as hard as they can and maybe they hear something that makes sense to them."

"I feel very good about the opportunity to talk to a young

See **LESSONS** | Page 8

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**LAI D OUT ON A PLATTER:** Southerners enjoy a wide variety of pork products, as shown in this feature photo of a roasted pig.

## Pork has replaced fried chicken as a Southern food staple

FREDDY HUNT  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

### Pigging out

My time in the South put to rest a common misperception. Pork is more prevalent in the South than fried chicken. I saw no place hailing "best fried chicken," but restaurants everywhere were claiming "Alabama's best barbecue" or "best smoked pork in the world." I would hate to be a pig in Mobile.

### The Waffle House epidemic

Commercialization may fade the colorful threads that make a region of our country unique. But even in franchises there are visible changes depending on to what part of the country you travel.

Just about every exit on the interstate has a Waffle House for highway passengers who are itching to get some syrup flowing through their veins.

But interestingly enough, grits are featured on the menu, as well as at our hotel's continental breakfast. Waffle House and grits seem to be the breakfast favorites in 'Bama.

### Going bananas

Every restaurant we went to had banana pudding on top of its dessert menu, and some places had only banana pudding and nothing else.

Naturally, we ate it on several occasions. It's so simple, yet so sweet. Banana pudding folded with whipped cream, chunks of vanilla wafers and real bananas.

### See any seafood?

The Gulf Coast has a huge influence on Mobile's culinary culture. You really can't get away from the seafood: Crawdads, oysters, fried catfish, mud bugs, shrimp, escargot and red snapper are served everywhere.

And it's all so versatile. Throw any combination on a French roll with some hot sauce and you got yourself a genuine po'boy sandwich. It's the life of the South.

Or add any combination of seafood plus sausage, rice, some Creole or Cajun seasoning and you have jambalaya.

I think somebody should do a study on Zantac sales in the South. I'm willing to bet they're pretty high.

I will miss the South, the great food and being called darlin' by all of the Southern bells.



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**FOOD CULTURE:** The Falcon football team lines up to enjoy helpings of seafood at a Shrimp Fest in Mobile, Ala. The team experienced a variety of Southern food during the trip.

## LESSONS

From Page 7

group of men like this," he said.

When talking about a possible prediction for the GMAC Bowl, Theismann wasn't sure which team to go with, but thought it would be a game of high-powered offense.

"I almost think this is going to be a game that whoever has the ball last is going to have an opportunity to win," Theismann said. "Both the defenses have given up a fair amount of points and the offenses can score a lot, so this looks like one of those things where you don't want to turn it off until it's over."

Theismann graduated from Notre Dame in 1970. He finished as the runner-up for the 1970 Heisman Trophy, the annual award for college football's best player.

Following graduation, Theismann played two seasons for the Toronto Argonauts and led them to a Gray Cup, the championship of the Canadian Football League.

After his successful stint in the CFL, Theismann moved on to the Washington Redskins, where he played for 10 seasons and cemented his Hall of Fame status. In 1982, he led the Redskins to a 27-17 win over the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl XVII.

**"This is going to be a game that whoever has the ball last is going ... to win."**

Joe Theismann | Hall-of-Famer

In 1983, Theismann put together one his best seasons, winning the Associated Press' NFL MVP, Offensive Player of the Year, Pro Bowl Player of the Game and making the All-NFL Team. His team went 14-2 and lost to the Los Angeles Raiders in Super Bowl XVIII.

Two years later, he became a vital part of one of the most gruesome televised injuries in the history of sports. In a Monday Night Football game against the New York Giants, Giants linebacker and Hall-of-Famer Lawrence Taylor busted through the offensive line and went to sack Theismann. Taylor had so much momentum that he snapped Theismann's leg in two places. The injury effectively ended Theismann's football career.

After the NFL he worked as a television analyst for ESPN and CBS from 1989 to 2006. He also was a co-host during the first season of "American Gladiators" in 1989. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2003.



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**BGSU PRIDE:** The University's Falcon Marching Band had the opportunity to march in Mobile's Mardi Gras parade along with other local bands and floats.



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**FLASHY RIDING:** This elaborately costumed man was one of many participants in the Mardi Gras parade last week.



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**LIGHTING UP THE SKY:** The parade also included fireworks, as shown in the above photograph.

Bands, fireworks, costumes highlight Alabama parade festivities

# Mardi Gras has its roots in Mobile, Ala.

By Bill Bordewick  
Assistant Sports Editor

MOBILE, Ala. — Believe it or not, Mardi Gras didn't originate in New Orleans, La. It originated in Mobile, and the good people of southern Alabama were determined to show why they were the first revelers this past Saturday.

The city's Mardi Gras parade was filled with extravagant floats, numerous high school and college marching bands, and various GMAC Bowl assorted items — and let us not forget about those colorful plastic beads.

"I love the beads," said Shawna, a bartender at Pat's Downtown Grill, who declined

to give her full name. Pat's was virtuously taken over by BG fans before the parade. "We all have a good time and it is good family fun."

The beads are what make Mardi Gras the event that it is. These 10-cent quality plastic beads are like gold down here — everywhere you look, people are wearing different sorts of beads.

People stationed on the floats hold all the cards because they are the ones in charge of dispersing the much-coveted beads.

Dispersing is kind of a put it. These guys throw Jake Peavy-like 95 mph fastballs at the patrons behind the barricades and it becomes "every

person for themselves" at that point — duck, cover, throw a hand up and hope for the best.

Many of those parade-going patrons ducking out of the way of oncoming beads were decked out in all kinds of BGSU shirts, jerseys and hats.

"It was definitely a good turnout this year — a lot more orange on the streets tonight than usual," Shawna said.

The Falcons made their presence known all night long. Whether it was the pre-parade party at Pat's or the numerous chants heard throughout the night, Falcon fans turned Mobile into BG South and definitely outnumbered the Tulsa contingent on this night.

The "BG...SU" chant was heard was probably uttered more times on Dauphin Street in downtown Mobile than on Main Street in BG.

Across the street from Pat's at Boo Radley's, the Falcon fight song of Ay-Ziggy-Zoomba was even sung by a group of Falcon fans — and some converted Alabama fans for the night.

That, to go along with the chants, may have made for a very irritating night for non-BG supporters.

"These BGSU chants are really starting to get annoying," said Jeff, one of the bartenders at Boo Radley's, who also declined to give his full name.



# Cy Young winner preaches need for faith in sports

By Bill Bordewick  
Assistant Sports Editor

MOBILE, Ala. — San Diego Padres pitcher Jake Peavy could relate to the two teams in the GMAC Bowl — and not just because GMAC alum LaDainian Tomlinson is his next-door neighbor.

The 2007 NL Cy Young Award winner from Mobile spoke to the two teams at a breakfast Friday about the importance of keeping Christianity in their lives.

As a part of the Cellular South Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Peavy was back in the town that started it all for him.

But this time he was doing something that may have been out of his element: public speaking.

"I can pitch in front of 50,000 people, but speaking in front of a few hundred probably makes me more nervous," the Padres ace said in between signing autographs afterward.

"I just try to be myself and talk about what's important to me."

One of those important topics for Peavy is his faith.

Take his first Major League start against the New York Yankees.

In that game, he pitched six innings and only gave up one run before ultimately losing 1-0 to Roger Clemens.

Agree at first start, but not what he remembers about that day.

The thing he most recalls about that day is speaking in front of 60,000 people to discuss his faith along with the likes of New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte after the game.

His faith has always been a big part of his life and there was never any doubt that he would be in attendance for this event.

"This is my hometown — this is my city," Peavy said. "I was certainly grateful for the opportunity to speak."

He never gave up hope after what he considered a down year in 2006 and rebounded with a solid 2007.

BG and Tulsa can relate to the pitcher's struggles.

Both faced numerous adversities during the season, but were able to overcome them and produced strong seasons.

Both teams seemed to be impacted positively by the speech.

"He was a very classy and articulate man who did a great job sharing his faith and life story," BG center Kory Lichtensteiger wrote in his blog on [www.bj3sufalcons.com](http://www.bj3sufalcons.com).

Peavy also made an impact on Tulsa quarterback Paul Smith, a devout Christian who is a member of the FCA.

"The FCA is something I'm very involved with back at home," Smith said.

"I think it's a good way to have your foundation with your faith first and let football come later."

While the Falcons and the Golden Hurricanes may have been impacted, they were merely spectators on this day as Peavy took center stage.

He was drafted by the San Diego Padres straight out of St. Paul's Episcopal high school in Mobile in 1999 after declining a scholarship to Auburn University.

A minor league baseball salary consisting of \$1,500 a month was not enough for him to support a growing family, and it almost led him to give up on the Padres and go back to Auburn.

The Padres convinced him to stay with the organization and they promoted him to the AA Mobile BayBears before he was ready so he could be close



**Jake Peavy**  
Padres ace who spoke to both teams Friday

to his family.

He has been in the Major Leagues for six seasons now, and this past season was his best year yet.

He won the pitching triple crown by leading the National League with 19 wins, 240 strikeouts and a 2.40 ERA.

With college students in attendance, it was only fitting for him to include a story about college hard-headedness, especially because his wife insisted he include a joke.

In the story, Peavy refused to take himself out of the game after pitching eight scoreless innings in a game in Milwaukee.

After giving up two straight home runs on consecutive pitches to the Brewers' Carlos Lee and Geoff Jenkins, Padres manager Bruce Bochy came to the mound.

Peavy began to protest his manager's decision, but Bochy was merely stalling for time while the fireworks guy reloaded.

He responded by getting the final three outs.

These types of stories were key to Peavy's ability to relate to two college football teams from vastly different parts of the country — all despite making millions of dollars and just coming off signing the largest contract in Padres history.

# BG takes first strike at Tulsa

Falcons win trophy in off-field GMAC bowling rivalry

By Chris Voloschuk  
Sports Editor

MOBILE, Ala. — Very rarely do opposing teams get together before a big game to have fun around one another.

But on Wednesday night, the BG and Tulsa rosters did just that. The venue wasn't the confines of the site of the GMAC Bowl, Ladd Peebles Stadium, but one full of crashing balls and pins.

The slated event on Wednesday night was the AMF Florida Bowl Bowling Challenge, a night where both teams got to step away temporarily from the football field and test their bowling skills.

It wasn't just an event where the players rolled to have fun, but also one where the number of pins knocked down were counted and a winner determined.

The best bowler on the winning team would receive a trophy at Thursday's practice.

The bowling alley was crowded, to say the least.

Five bowlers were placed at each of the alley's 40 lanes.

The results were compiled throughout the evening.

It couldn't be determined if the results of the bowling challenge were signs of the GMAC Bowl's result, but BG

took home the team win by an overwhelming 1,400-plus pins. There were heroes aplenty for the Falcons.

The high-roller for BG was team captain and defensive back Antonio Smith, who compiled the best score of the night for both teams in the first game with a 208. He received his first-ever bowl-

game one.

Adrian Baker and Chris Scheidt both rolled 173. Receiver Matt Emans scored 173. Quarterback Tyler Sheehan had 172.

Several others had scores above 140.

The second game featured some new high scores for BG. Jimmy Scheidler rolled a team high of 179.

Offensive lineman Drew Nystrom finished in second place with a 176. Eight others finished with scores over 145.

In all of sports, college football is one of the few to feature outings in which both teams get together to take part in a fun event. Wednesday night's bowling excursion was one of those times.

While the Falcons were having a good time, they were still maintaining their competitive nature and keeping a little defense between themselves and their bowl opponents.

"It's the first time you get to see your opponent before you play them," Sheehan said. "It's kind of cool, but it's kind of awkward because you don't want to say too much."

Between the gutters, BG players seemed to do the most talking with their bowling balls.



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ALLEY: BG and Tulsa faced off Wednesday for the AMF Florida Bowl Bowling Challenge.

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Wood County Hospital salutes these dedicated members of its medical staff who serve as team physicians for BGSU athletes — home and away.

With decades of combined sports medicine experience, this impressive starting lineup supports Wood County Hospital's long-standing commitment to our hometown team, Bowling Green State University.

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*Go through some phone books, call people and ask them to drive you to the airport. The ones who will drive you are your true friends. The rest aren't but people; they're not acquaintances.*

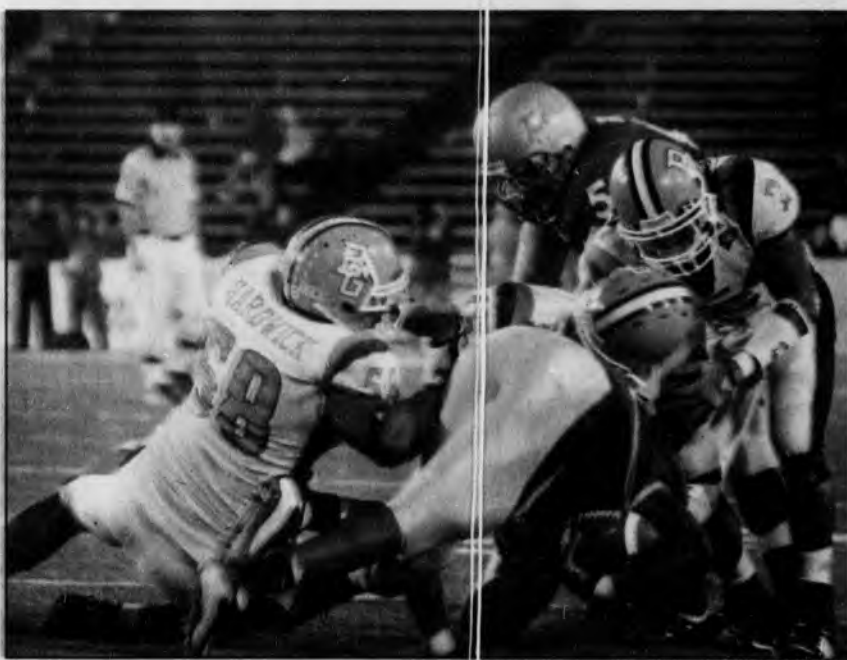
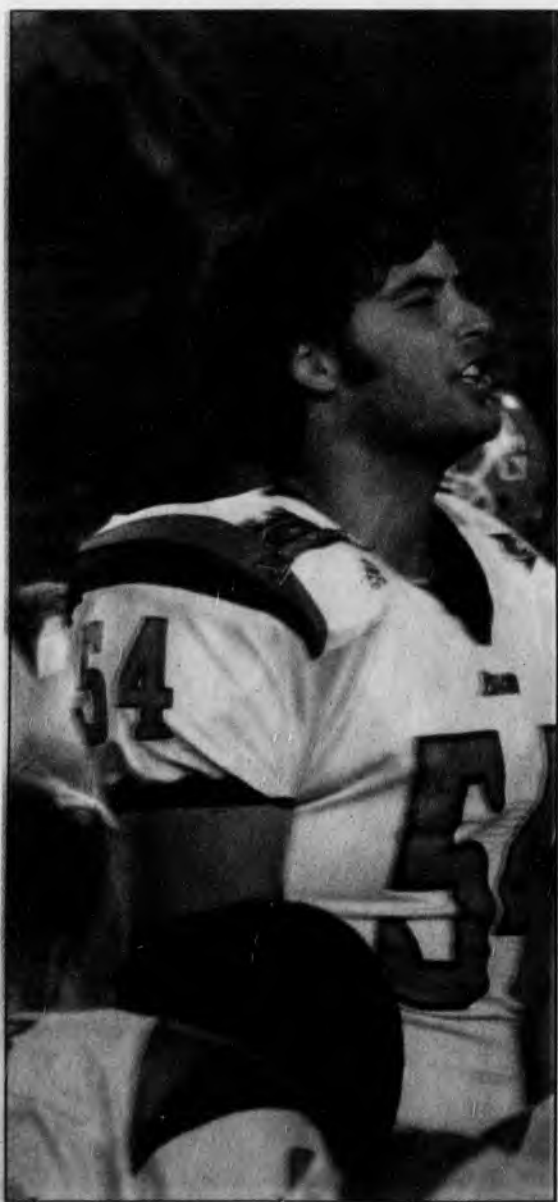
— Jay Leno

QUOTE OF THE DAY  
— October 1st 2007 —



# Falcons pushed for a win

Fans and players react differently in the final game of the season



ALL PHOTOS BY ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**GMAC BOWL:** As students, parents, alumni and others cheered on the Falcons, the team struggled. Although Roger Williams gave the Falcons their first and only touchdown of the game, the team never again made it to the endzone. **UPPER RIGHT:** Fans cheer as the Golden Hurricanes continue to dominate against the Falcon football team. **MIDDLE AND LOWER RIGHT:** The Falcons fight for a victory without success. **LOWER LEFT:** Following the game, long snapper Kyle Cutler led the team in a prayer.